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Larva of *Celastrina argiolus* L., Holly Blue (Lep.: Lycaenidae) feeding on willow

On 24th August 1989 I beat a final instar larva of *Celastrina argiolus* out of a common willow tree (*Salix cinerea*) which had no ivy growing on it. In captivity it fed from the upper side of the willow leaves and left just a network of veins before moving on to another leaf. The larva had very pronounced red dorsal and lateral stripes. The fully fed larva and pupa were unusually small. A very small female butterfly emerged on 8th May 1990 but failed to expand its wings properly. I was unable to measure the wingspan and so I measured the body length which was 8mm compared with 11mm for a normal female.

The larva of *argiolus* has never before been recorded as feeding on willow. It does however appear to be an unsuitable foodplant for normal development.— Dr B.P. HENWOOD, 4 The Paddocks, Abbotskerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon.